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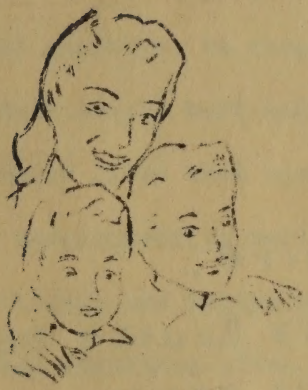


A MANUAL

FOR

FOSTER PARENTS

State of Mont.
Department of Public Welfare
Child Welfare Services

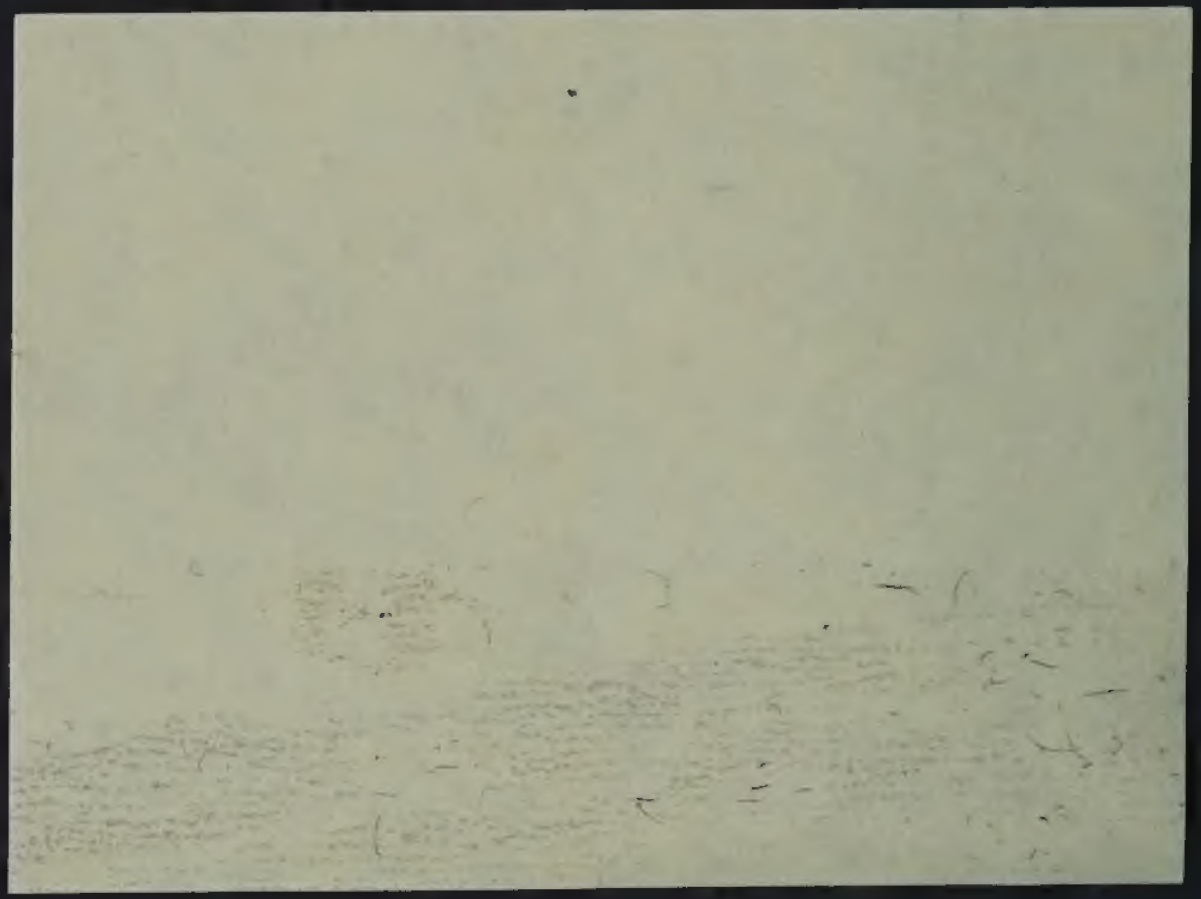
Inquire:

Missoula County Department
of Public Welfare

430 W. Pine

tel. 6649

MTR
Boulder
362.733
MANUAL



You as foster parents realize it is harder to raise a foster child than it is to raise a child of your own. You must have special qualities to receive children into your home who have been deeply hurt and who have had tragic experiences in their lives that upset them emotionally. In many cases their development is well begun and they come to you with attitudes and habits well established. These children in many instances often need a long time to overcome their fears and to learn to trust adults again. Sometimes you must tolerate jealous natural parents who resent seeing someone else doing what they might have done. Sometimes you must accept admiration of neighbors, their curiosity, or their gossip. You must learn to understand the visits of a social worker in your home, and learn how to let her help you. For foster parents to love someone else's child requires really uncommon qualities of heart and mind.

W. J. Fouse, Administrator
Department of Public Welfare

By Margaret Scott, Director
Div. of Child Welfare Services

To Foster Parents

WELCOME

We are happy to welcome you as foster parents for the State Department of Public Welfare, Division of Child Welfare Services.

As foster parents you give a unique and essential service to our agency and to children, a service which no member of the staff can give. Your interest, understanding, affection and day-by-day care are vital for children who are separated from their own people.

We know that there is satisfaction in helping a child to grow up to be a happier and more self-reliant man or woman than might be possible without the benefits of living in a wholesome family. We know, too, that there are times when caring for a foster child has its difficulties. As long as a child is in your home, the agency

willshare with you the responsibility for his care.

This pamphlet will give you some of the information that you will want in order to understand how we work together for the well-being of our children.

I. Your License

Is issued for 6 months or one year, depending upon the plan arranged with your worker and the State Department at the time the license is issued.

II. The Case Worker's Part

While you are responsible for the day-by-day care of the child, a case worker, as the representative of the agency, is responsible for deciding where the child lives; for making any change in living arrangements, such as returning to his own home, or going to an adoption home; and for helping him and you with the special problems he may have as a child living away from his own home. To carry this joint responsibility we must work together. The case worker will visit you regularly. She will need to know how the child is getting along. The more freely

you can talk things over with her, the more helpful you can be to one another, and to the child.

III. Placement - How We Place a Child in Your Home

The agency tries as far as possible to select for you the kind of child for whom you and the case worker have together decided your home is best suited. The case worker will talk over with you what we know about the c hild being considered for placement in your home. You will then be free to decide whether you want that child. The child will also be prepared, in so far as possible, for coming into your home. You will be notified in advance when the child is to come to you.

IV. Financial Arrangements

The board rate of the agency is based on the needs of the individual child.

A. Payment of board

1. Checks are paid regularly on the 10th of each month.

2. The agency is unable to pay board for a child during his absence from the home for a

period longer than 30 days.

3. The agency pays for the child from the exact date of his placement regardless of the hour. We do not pay for the day on which he leaves.

B. Other expenses

In addition to board, the agency pays for certain other expenses in behalf of the child:

C. Clothing

Clothing is supplied by the child's county of residence or by parents, relatives or other interested persons.

V. Medical Service

The agency is responsible for the medical and dental care of the child. Your case worker will arrange for periodical medical and dental check-ups. She will talk over with you the special dental or medical needs of your child. You will be notified by her when the child is to return for regular examination. Arrangements for keeping appointments will

be made between you and her.

Physician - Services of the County Physician are available for the child.

Illness - When the child is sick, telephone the agency at once.

Night or Week-end Illness - If the child is ill at night or on the week-end, you should call the physician approved by the agency and report to the agency as soon as possible.

Emergencies - In the case of sudden illness or accidents requiring immediate attention, call your family physician or take the child to the nearest hospital. Be sure to give the hospital the name and address of the agency, and notify the agency. In any such emergencies, the doctor's fees will be paid by the agency on presentation of bill.

VI. Visits of Relatives

Parents or responsible relatives have the right to see their children regularly. It is not always possible to make a set schedule for their visits,

but efforts will be made to arrange for visits in advance at such times as will be convenient for you and for them. Although the child's parents may have failed him, he retains considerable feeling for them and the foster parents should try to allow him to express his feeling without being critical of the child or of his parents. Children should be allowed to visit parents or relatives, if the visiting plan has first been discussed with the worker. Other relatives may also be allowed to visit. Where children have no parents visiting, the agency may arrange for visits by other interested persons. Should visits of relatives be disturbing in any way, discuss it with your case worker, as you do other troublesome situations.

VIII. Change of Address

Change of address should be discussed in advance with the case worker. You are sharing with the agency responsibility for the child. Therefore even temporary plans to take a child to another city or state must be discussed with the agency.

IX. Changes in Family Make-up

When you accept a child from the agency, it is understood that you are agreeing not to board other children or adults from any other source. The case worker will need to know of any change in the number of people living in your household.

We hope you and your family will find pleasure in giving your home to a child who needs your care.